

THE JACOBS REPORT

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ECONOMIC STIMULUS BEGINS WITH LABOR DAY BILL

Governor Jennifer Granholm, once leery about the impact a mandatory post-Labor Day school start would have on education, signed House Bill 4803 into law this week. HB 4803, sponsored by Rep. Ed Gaffney (R-Grosse Pointe Farms), requires schools to begin the school year after Labor Day. Assured that the legislation would not harm the educational process, the governor saw merit in helping Michigan's struggling tourism industry.

Then she stumped for her job creation plan.

"This legislation is a great economic tool that will create new job opportunities in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula," Granholm said. "To help every family in Michigan, it is critical that the legislature pass my jobs plan now."

The governor expressed optimism now that House has taken up her \$2 billion investment plan geared towards creating 72,000 new jobs by diversifying the state's economy. She has repeatedly called on the Legislature to pass the five-part economic plan introduced during February's State of the State address.

"Yesterday's action in the House is a positive sign that the Republicans in the legislature are at last ready to move on my plan to create jobs and diversify the economy," said Granholm. "The people of Michigan are waiting for us to finish the job and I am hopeful that the Legislature will not slow down until the job is done."

The governor's jobs package also includes plans to overhaul the state's business taxes, provide a new Merit Scholarship program, and the Jobs Today package that will create jobs and strengthen communities through the acceleration of infrastructure and road projects.

Beginning with the 2006 school year, all Michigan schools begin after Labor Day. Granholm said the bill will not negatively impact our children's education since it does not impact the amount of time children are required to be in the classroom. Local school districts will remain responsible for determining their local school calendar, including vacation days and length of the school day.

"There's no doubt that tourism is an important part of our economy," said Gov. Granholm. "Secondly, I wanted to be sure this would not harm public education. To suggest this pits education against tourism is a false choice," she said.

SILVER LINING: MICHIGAN GAS PRICES 5TH LOWEST

Gas prices may seem high, but according to The American Automobile Association's (AAA) Fuel Gauge Report, Michigan's gas prices are the fifth lowest in the country.

This is a striking turn-around from early September. Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, AAA rated Michigan's \$3.26 per gallon of regular gas as one of the highest in the country. Governor Granholm quickly responded, calling on Marathon Oil executives to lower the prices, which they did, to \$2.99 a gallon.

The governor also wrote a letter to President Bush, urging him cap exorbitant oil profits during a time of crisis. She also suggested an immediate investigation into the recent actions of the oil industry and how they were harming the national economy.

"Governor Granholm has been aggressive on many fronts," said Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). "When consumers needed protection, the governor stepped up to the plate."

In August, Granholm asked the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to increase gas station inspections and announced the MDA would use \$1.3 million to hire additional inspectors, who filed multiple felony and misdemeanor charges against the owners of a Fast Track gas station in Macomb County who illegally modified their gas pumps to short change customers.

MICHIGAN PUMPKIN PATCHES & CORN MAZES

It's the time of year when thoughts turn to costumes, fall harvest and frolicking in corn mazes. While there are many lovely locations to experience fall across the US, without a doubt, Michigan's crisp and colorful fall is beyond compare. Of course, there is no better way to appreciate harvest climes in Michigan than by visiting one of our many cider mills, farmer's markets and u-pick farm markets. There you can drink your fill of fresh Michigan cider, pick up a pumpkin to carve into a jack-o-lantern, wander through a corn maze and maybe even take a hay ride. There are a myriad of activities to fill your fall days, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture can help you plan your trip now.

Follow this link to find a pumpkin patch, a cider mill, a farmer's market or u-pick farm market near you: <http://www.mda.state.mi.us/market/u-pick/index.asp>. Put in key words such as "pumpkins", "maze" or "hayrides", or just plain "maze" and "hay", and the search engine will return a list of possibilities. When you find a location near you, remember to call ahead about times for Michigan hay rides, pumpkin picking and corn mazes.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.